NOTE XXV.

ON A COLLECTION OF REPTILES FROM TRANSVAAL

BY

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Through the kind offices of my friend Mr. M. Breuning, chief-engineer of the Dutch-South-African Railway-Company, the Leyden Museum was enriched with a small collection of Reptiles. Dr. Helkenberg, who collected these animals at the confluence of the Comati- and the Crocodile-river, about 90 KM. inland of Lorenço Marques and 200 M. above the level of the sea, and who afterwards presented them to our Museum, has a claim to our gratitude, as 11 species of the 23 collected ones were desiderata to our collections.

In the following list I add an asterisk before the names of the species that were not untill now represented in our collections.

Chelonia.

1. *Pelomedusa galeata* Schoepf.
   One young specimen.

Lacertilia.

2. *Hemidactylus mabuia* Mor.
   One specimen.

*3. *Pachydactylus Bibronii* Smith.
   One specimen.

*4. *Agama atricollis* Smith.

One young female specimen.

*5. *Zonurus Johnesii* Blgr.

A single male specimen, which differs from Boulenger's description of the type-specimen [1]) in having the nasal shield pierced in its posterior part, next to the first labial, the latter being pentagonal and for a small part edging with its upper angle between nasal and frenal shield. The dorsal scales are arranged in 10 longitudinal rows; the lateral shields, which are smaller, rhomboidal and strongly keeled, are arranged in 4 longitudinal rows, not being separated from one another by granules. There are 6 femoral pores in one row, this row being preceded by 3 rows of more or less swollen scales. In all other points our specimen fully agrees with Boulenger's description.

6. *Varanus albigularis* Daud.

Two young specimens, with a dark line running from the eye along the neck untill behind and above the shoulder, where it meets a dark line coming from the throat and running along the side of the neck before the fore leg. In strange contradiction with the name of the species, one of our specimens has a large dark patch on the throat; in the other specimen this patch, though indicated, is not so clearly visible [2]).

7. *Mabuia quinquetaeniata* Licht.

Six specimens, one of them quite agreeing with Peters' figure of *M. margaritifer* Ptrs. [3]).

*8. *Mabuia varia* Ptrs.

Two specimens.

Ophidia.

*9. *Glauconia Distanti* Blgr.

One specimen, somewhat slenderer than Boulenger's typical

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1) Ann. and Mag. of Nat. Hist. 1891, 6th Series, vol. VIII, p. 417.

2) Daudin in his description of the species mentions: „lineis duabus *albidis* ab oculis supra collum ductis."

3) W. Peters, Reise nach Mozambique, Amphibien, Pl. X, Fig. 1.

specimen, the diameter of the body 76 times in the total length, length of tail 19 times. Our specimen measures 190 mm.

10. *Pseudaspis cana* L.

One young specimen.

11. *Philothamnus semivariegatus* Smith.

One specimen.

*12. *Prosymna Sundevallii* Smith.

One specimen, with two internasals separated from each other, a single praefrontal in contact with the rostral, one prae- and two post-oculars and seven upperlabials, the third and fourth entering the eye. Temporals 2 + 2, ventrals 152, subcaudals in 26 pairs. Upper part of the head reddish brown with a yellow spot on a part of the frontal and of the parietals. Back and sides reddish brown with a yellow line along the middle of the back; this line, somewhat broader than one scale, is everywhere interrupted by small brown spots. Underpart whitish, with irregular darker spots, a reddish line running over the middle of the tail.

13. *Dasypeltis scabra* L.

Two specimens, with a dorsal series of large squarish or rhomboidal dark spots, separated by light intervals, alternating with a lateral series of dark spots or crossbars. On some places there is continuity between the dorsal and the lateral spot, so indicating Λ-shaped dark markings.

14. *Psammophis sibilans* L.

One specimen.

15. *Dryiophis Kirtlandi* Hall.

One specimen, resembling in coloration Günther's figure of *D. Oatesii* [1]), but differing from Günther's description in having the rostral reverted to the upper surface of the head, and in having three postoculars [2]). Another specimen in our Museum, collected in the neighbourhood of the

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[1]) Matabeleland and the Victoria falls. Appendix III, Herpetology, p. 330. London, 1882.

[2]) After comparing Günther's figure with our Transvaal specimen, I should feel inclined to think that G's *Dryiophis Oatesii* also has three postoculars on its left side.

Cunene-river, shows the same peculiar coloration, viz. the pink T-shaped figure mottled with black on the head and the blackish line from the eye to the penultimate upperlabial. This specimen also has three postoculars. Our Transvaal specimen shows a peculiarity in the form of the supranasals, these shields being so much reverted as to touch the upperlabials; but our specimen from the Cunene-river misses this peculiarity and has quite normally formed supranasals. In the Transvaal specimen there are two frenalshields on the left, only one on the right side. I think this peculiar form must be regarded as a local Southern variety of *D. Kirtlandi*, as all our specimens from the Gold-coast, as well as those from Liberia, lack this peculiar coloration, and agree with one another in having the upper surface of the head of a uniform greenish colour and in missing the blackish line from the eye to the penultimate upperlabial.

16. *Leptodeira rufescens* Gmelin.

Three specimens.

*17. *Telescopus semiannulatus* Sundeval.

Three specimens.

*18. *Naja nigricollis* Reinhardt.

One single badly preserved specimen.

19. *Causus rhombeatus* Licht.

One young specimen.

Batrachia.

*20. *Cheromantis Petersi* Blgr.

Three specimens, with the outer fingers one third webbed, but without a dark brown stripe on the temporal region.

*21. *Phrynomantis bifasciata* Smith.

One specimen belonging to Boulenger's variety A.

*22. *Breviceps mossambicus* Ptrs.

One specimen.

23. *Bufo regularis* Reuss.

Two specimens.

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